

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 10, 15, 20, 31, and 37-40 are pending in the present application.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Swope for her frequent discussions with their undersigned Representative on March 30, 2004 through April 19, 2004, and her indication that the previous grounds of rejection would be withdrawn in view of the amendments set forth herein above. Applicants also wish to thank Examiner Swope for her indication that (i) the non-elected Species will be rejoined and (ii) Claims 3-4, 20, 31, and 38 would be rejoined and allowed along with elected Claims 1, 2, 10, and 15. Consistent with this indication Claims 5-9, 11-14, 16-19, 21-30, and 32-36 have been canceled.

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Vincent K. Shier, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,552

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413-2220

(OSMMN 08/03)

NFO/VKS